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THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

HMB offers hope in crisis pregnancies

By Lynne Jones
SBC Home Mission Board

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — A crisis pregnancy is an emotionally significant event and creates a radical change of status in a person's life.

Many women who experience crisis pregnancies are in churches in the Southern Baptist Convention, which observes Sanctity of Human Life Day Jan. 19.

In addition to being aware of crisis pregnancies, churches need to be equipped to minister to women, men and families affected by abortion decisions, says Sylvia Boothe, director of Alternatives to Abortion Ministries at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board (HMB) in Atlanta.

"Women considering abortion and those who have experienced it are in need of God's love and a demonstration of nonjudgmental love through his church," she states.

While some argue that a woman has the right to choose, "a woman has the right to be educated and counseled on the physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual aspects of all her choices," Boothe adds.

"She is the only one who can make the decision. She will live with that decision the rest of her life."

The objective of Alternatives to Abortion Ministries is to assist churches, associations and state conventions in providing ministries to women facing crisis pregnancies or who have experienced abortion.

Women aren't the only ones affected. Southern Baptists need to be aware that men also need help when their child has been aborted, Boothe notes.

for couples as well as individual support groups through a crisis pregnancy center.

Alternatives to Abortion Ministries also assists in educating children and young people who are forming their morals and values, as well as people who are interested in long-term, positive actions concerning abortion.

Women involved in crisis pregnancies

individual capable of making good decisions and of solving her own problems, you help her convert from victim to one in control," she explains.

"No one wants to be faced with this kind of crisis," Boothe continues. "but the truth is, if we haven't already been touched by a crisis pregnancy, our chances are extremely high we will be."

"The question we should be asking ourselves is, 'What can I do?'" she asks.

Boothe listed ways to become involved in alternatives to abortion:

- 1) Pray.
- 2) Become educated on issues surrounding abortion and alternatives to it.
- 3) Expose school administrators to sex education material teaching chastity.
- 4) Keep up to date on family issues and inform your church.
- 5) Ask your pastor to preach on the sanctity of human life.
- 6) Become involved in or start a crisis pregnancy center.

These are key abortion facts to keep in mind:

◆ Women can legally abort their unborn child at any time throughout their entire nine months of pregnancy, for any reason.

◆ Every third baby in the U.S. dies from abortion — one child every 20 seconds.

For more information, contact the HMB Alternatives to Abortion Ministries office at (800) 962-0851; and

The Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.



January 19, 1997

In some crisis pregnancy centers, up to half of all clients are men.

Eight years ago, a young man in California, for example, thought he had no choice when his fiancée had an abortion.

Now he and his wife have found post-abortion counseling

come from all backgrounds and socioeconomic standings, Boothe says.

"She could be your sister, daughter, niece, cousin, neighbor, friend, church member or even you," she says.

"She could be any age past puberty and before menopause, a member of any race or religion, any educational level or social background."

The best way to help a woman in a crisis pregnancy is to teach her to assume responsibility for herself, Boothe says.

"It is tempting to rescue a young woman in crisis, but by treating a young woman as an

First Priority making campus impact

"If we measure success by how many kids we have coming to church, we're failures. Our success is measured by how many kids we send out."

Mark Roberts' comment underscores First Priority of America as a different sort of youth outreach. Roberts is director of First Priority's Atlanta efforts. While rooted in local churches, it also is planting seeds for the gospel on junior and senior high school campuses.

Benny Proffitt, a former bivocational youth minister and secondary school teacher, founded First Priority after several failed attempts at starting Christian clubs on school campuses.

Proffitt is one of the featured speakers for the 1997 Mississippi Baptist Evangelism Conference (see article on page three).

After Congress allowed Christian clubs to meet on campus as long as they are student-led and student-initiated, Proffitt challenged his youth group to begin clubs in their schools and began contacting every youth minister in the area to do the same.

First Priority now exists in more than 20 churches and receives support from youth-related components at the Baptist Sunday School Board and Home Mission Board.

First Priority has a two-pronged strategy: 1) train youth pastors to network with other area churches wanting to reach young people for Christ; 2) encourage these people to equip and encourage Christian students to unite into one positive peer group on their campus.

For more information write to First Priority of America, P.O. Box 68119, Franklin, TN 37068-1119.

WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

TV ratings: a good idea?

MBMC sets expansion

Church news

Baptist Children's Village

Looking back

10 years ago

When Monticello businessman James Boone decides to go out of business, he gives his shoe store to Monticello Church. Pastor James Fancher in turn calls the Mississippi Baptist Children's Village, which carts off \$32,546.64 in boots, shoes, and assorted clothing.

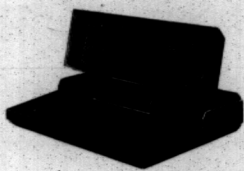
20 years ago

Texas Baptist lobbyist Phil Strickland warns Mississippi Baptists during a series of human relations conferences held around Mississippi that the state is one of six targeted by gambling proponents to campaign for a local option parimutuel gambling law.

50 years ago

Approximately 200 people attend an associational Sunday School banquet at First Church, Philadelphia. D. A. McCall, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, is the featured speaker.

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TV ratings: much smoke, little substance

With great fanfare and the sword of government intervention hanging ominously overhead, the television industry has chosen to implement a six-level ratings system to protect the young and the impressionable from an ever-increasing menu of adult (translation: raunchy) broadcasting choices.

The television ratings system is detailed on page four of this issue.

At least one network — Fox — is already using the system. A ratings symbol appears in the upper left-hand corner of the television screen at the beginning of a program, and then reappears periodically as the program proceeds.

Most people would likely agree that television ratings are long overdue, but that begs the question of why such a system became necessary in the first place.

We've come a long way since the days of television's married couples retiring at night to separate beds.

Now, we have homosexuals retiring at night to the same bed.

Almost every prime time show contains graphic scenes of perversion, murder, adultery, drug abuse, misogyny, and family dysfunctions.

Religious people are often depicted as ignorant, overbearing zealots obsessed with imposing their personal views on everyone — or worse, as perverts or criminals conducting their misdeeds in the name of God.

Women, and especially young women, are portrayed as ever-ready and willing to engage in sex with anyone at any time, while men are portrayed as slovenly, amoral beings with limitless sexual appetites who pour beer in their breakfast cereal.

During the "family hour" on the evening

of Jan. 12, one network show featured "bloopers" of animals urinating and copulating. The canned laugh track was added so viewers would understand the scenes were actually meant to be funny.

Has American culture sunk to the point that such perversity and vulgarity are considered high entertainment worthy of national broadcast?

The answer is, probably not, but Hollywood thinks we're all in the gutter with them — just read some of the apologia pouring into the pliant national media from Hollywood.

Thus pornography becomes a First Amendment issue, prurient sex is seen as a personal right, and extreme gore is magically transformed into art.

Into this foul morass, a ratings system has now been injected. Wouldn't it be a lot easier to simply clean up the programming?

Consider these facts: The television ratings system was designed by the same people who brought us the largely unenforced movie rating system, and it will be policed by the broadcasters themselves, which brings to mind images of foxes and hen houses.

The television ratings system also fails to produce a detailed sex and violence rating, opting instead for nebulous age-based categories.

According to Baptist Press and other sources, groups offering criticism of this minimal effort on the part of broadcasters include such heavy hitters as:

- ◆ Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission.
- ◆ American Family Association.
- ◆ Center for Media Education.
- ◆ American Psychological Association.
- ◆ Children's Defense Fund.
- ◆ National Parent/Teachers Association.
- ◆ American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Yet the leaders of the American television industry remain largely intransigent.

Jack Valenti, head of the Motion Picture Association of America and midwife to both the movie and television ratings systems, is adamant that this step is as far as broadcasters need go.

"I can tell you right now, we will not use any other television ratings system," Valenti said in threatening legal action in the Dec. 13 edition of "The New York Times."

So there you have it. The line has been clearly drawn.

Dare we Christians cross it?

*"Whom I have created for My glory"
(Isaiah 43:7, NKJV)*



Observe Sanctity of Human Life Sunday
January 19, 1997

Sponsored by the Christian Life Commission
of the Southern Baptist Convention

So it's Sanctity of Human Life Sunday again. What can be said that hasn't already been said?

Abortion continues. Though significantly reduced, we still destroyed 1.2 million babies in the United States in 1994.

Child abuse continues to be the second leading cause of death in children ages one to five years.

Gang violence continues to erupt and unsettle our cities and towns, and rob our nation of its youth at an alarming rate.

Assisted suicide threatens the elderly and disabled, and suicide continues as the third leading cause of death among teenagers.

Human life is precious, we claim. Based on God's word to us in Genesis 1:26-31, we proclaim that "being made in his image" is the foremost reason for declaring that human life is sacred.

We know the Scriptures, we teach the Sanctity of Human Life Sunday School lesson on the designated Sunday, and we may be willing to contact a legislator or congressman about a bill related to abortion or child abuse or some other life issue.

On a practical level that would touch individual lives, what have we done that bears witness of our belief that human life is sacred?

Perhaps it's time to consider getting involved in saving lives

on a daily basis — in an "up close and personal" kind of way.

The pro-life movement has seen gradual results in both reduction in number of abortions and abortion providers.

While this "shepherding home" concept is not at all a new idea in the pro-life movement, it may be an idea whose time has come.

Providing one's home as a

GUEST OPINION:



Abortion rate drops; now real work begins

By Elizabeth K. Holmes

Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission

Public pressure has resulted in a dramatic decrease in doctors and hospitals willing to perform abortions.

Abortion is no longer so widely available, and a consistent pro-life message seems to have had impact on public opinion and its understanding of unborn life.

More young women finding themselves in unplanned pregnancies are electing to have their babies.

Now is the time to step forward and offer our most precious resources — our homes, our families, our financial means, and above all, our Christian witness.

shepherding home may be the opportunity that a heart committed to God's gift of life has been seeking.

What is a shepherding home?

It is a home provided by a couple whose life circumstances and resources enable them to provide shelter, sustenance, and Christian witness to a young woman experiencing an unplanned pregnancy who needs a place to complete her pregnancy and recover from childbirth.

It is a place of safety where she can be nurtured physically and spiritually while she awaits the birth of her child.

By April 1997, the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission (CAC) will have produced a video entitled, "Some Place to Go."

The tape will be available to churches that can use it to introduce the life-saving ministry of a shepherding home to couples in its fellowship.

The video will set forth the potential of a Christian couple to influence the life of a young woman, while at the same time saving the life of her unborn child.

Available through the Broadcast Services Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, the video is the first facet of a program which will include training for potential couples.

As we approach Sanctity of Human Life Sunday on January 19, let us reflect deeply upon God's gift of life and the serious violations of that sacred gift that we see each day.

What kind of witness of life's sanctity will we bear?

Provision of a shepherding home — "some place to go" — could be the expression of Christ's love and regard for all lives to a young woman who has no hope.

For more information, contact CAC at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Panel is new feature at '97 Evangelism Conference

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

The 1997 Evangelism Conference will have a new feature, according to S. A. "Sonny" Adkins, director of the Evangelism Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

"Instead of the traditional singing and preaching, the Tuesday morning session will feature a panel discussion I am calling 'Sharing Heartbeats of Evangelism,'" Adkins said.

The conference will be held at Broadmoor Church, Jackson, on January 27-28. The theme is "Evangelism: The Heartbeat of

God." The first session begins at 1:30 p.m. on Jan. 27.

"My goal is to give our pastors and staff a handle on how to do evangelism today," Adkins said.

"We'll hear from four different speakers who will focus on traditional approaches to evangelism, contemporary approaches, ethnic evangelism and youth evangelism.

"After each speaker there will be a time for questions and answers from the audience," he explained.

Paul Powell, president of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board, will discuss traditional ways churches have done evangelism.

By traditional, Adkins said he means how Baptist churches have done evangelism over the years through Sunday School, Monday night visitation, Vacation Bible School, and the other established Southern Baptist programs.

Steve Stroope will discuss contemporary approaches to evangelism. Stroop is pastor of Lake Pointe Church in Rockwall, Texas, which uses a contemporary worship experience with a more relaxed style to reach people for Christ, Adkins said.

"Not everyone will like his methods, but his success speaks for itself," Adkins said.

Herb Brisbane will talk about evangelism among ethnic

groups. Brisbane is the director of the Office of Black Evangelism at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

"There is not a segment of this state that does not have some ethnic group to reach," Adkins said.

Benny Proffitt, founder of First Priority in Franklin, Tenn., will discuss how to reach youth.

"Every pastor wants to know how he can effectively reach young people," Adkins said.

Each speaker will have approximately 25 minutes to make his presentation, followed by a time for questions and discussion, Adkins explained.

"I anticipate a great response from Mississippi Baptist pastors and staff," he said.

For more information, contact the MBCB Evangelism Department at P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Groundbreaking at MBMC



On hand for Jan. 7 groundbreaking ceremonies for the new \$25.6 million medical office building at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center (MBMC) in Jackson were (from left) physicians Mart McMullan and Barbara Davey-Sullivan; Howard McMullan, MBMC trustee chairman; Rose Snow, MBMC assistant executive director; Jerry Cotton, MBMC executive director; Kane Ditto, Jackson mayor; physician Deaver Collins; and Al McKinney of Centex Concord, Nashville-based developer of the building. (Special photo)

MBMC plans medical office expansion

Mississippi Baptist Medical Center (MBMC) in Jackson broke ground Jan. 7 for a 133,000-square-foot medical office complex to be constructed just north of the main medical center complex on property currently used as the employee parking lot.

"The building will help us meet a need for medical office space in Jackson. We're building a first-class facility that will not only provide space, but will complement our existing buildings as well," said Jerry Cotton, MBMC acting executive director.

Property surrounding the five-story, \$25.6 million building will be bounded by North State Street to the east, Marshall

Street to the north, President Street to the west, and the main medical center complex to the south.

The building will be connected to the main medical complex by enclosed walkways on the first and fourth floors.

The fourth-floor walkway will connect directly to The Birthplace at Baptist labor and delivery section.

In a related development, a spokesman for the medical center reported that property has been purchased immediately behind the medical center along President, Congress, and West Streets, to replace the approximately 500 parking spaces that MBMC employees will relin-

quish when construction begins on the new building.

The as-yet unnamed building already has signed several leases with physician specialty offices, and will ultimately include the specialties of:

- ◆ internal medical.
- ◆ obstetrics/gynecology.
- ◆ cardiology.
- ◆ cardiovascular surgery.
- ◆ dermatology.

Cotton noted that the new building accommodates MBMC growth and answers the demand for medical office space, but also represents the medical center's long-term commitment to remain in downtown Jackson.

"We have much invested

here in our site on North State Street, and we will continue to make more improvements on this site in the future. This project represents a giant leap forward in our commitment here," he said.

THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE

THE BAPTIST
Record

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'96 Mississippi CP sets record for seventh consecutive year

By Tim Nicholas
MBCB Communications Director

Mississippi Baptists gave \$24,388,170 through the Cooperative Program (CP) in 1996 — more than a million dollars over the budget approved by messengers to the 1995 Mississippi Baptist Convention.

The record-setting 1996 CP total also reflects an increase of \$1,171,735 (5.05%) over 1995, which continued the seven-year trend of exceeding the previous year's record CP amount given by Mississippi Baptists, said Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

The 1996 CP total keeps Mississippi Baptists leading the entire Southern Baptist Convention in per-capita gifts, with \$92.40 given on average by each Baptist in the state.

"Our convention board has permitted us to adopt a very conservative fiscal approach to budgeting that bases the annual

budget on last year's income," Causey pointed out.

The \$1.71 million overage will be placed in the "challenge" portion of the budget, which is allotted 50% to Christian higher education in the state; 25% to Southern Baptist causes outside Mississippi; and 25% to MBCB causes.

"Every bit of the challenge portion goes to missions," Causey stressed, including a new program within the 25% MBCB share for associational projects that will help bring Mississippi to Jesus.

The half of the challenge amount allotted to the three Mississippi Baptist colleges also helps focus on the fact that Christian education "has always been a part of the strategy of helping win Mississippi and the world," Causey explained.

"I'm personally grateful for the precious people (who are) faithful to God in tithing and giving their offerings, and for the preachers who teach their people about tithing," he said.

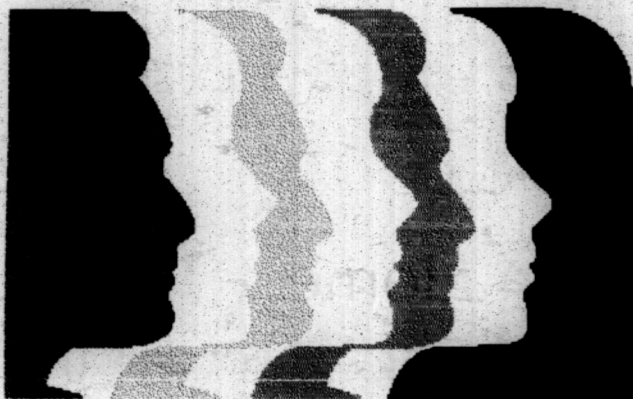


NEW CONSTRUCTION — Mississippi Baptist Medical Center's as-yet unnamed new medical office building will add 133,000 square feet of much-needed medical office space adjacent to the main complex.

ANALYSIS:

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

Final in a
two part series



Boomers, Busters within church's reach

Baby Boomers and Baby Busters — people from ages 20 to 50 — constitute 46% of the U.S. population.

It is important that churches understand the dynamics of how these two generations interact in order to develop strategies for reaching them with the Gospel.

♦ **Family Life:** The Baby Boomers' ideal for family can be characterized by the television program "Leave it to Beaver."

Unfortunately, such an idealistic life has not been the case.

and other commitments to later points in life.

Ironically, both Boomers and Busters bring dysfunctional ideals to marriage.

One is in denial; the other is self centered.

A church that upholds the ideals of Christian family life while also accepting people as they are — and gives practical help to troubled families — can minister to these generations.

♦ **Religion:** Boomers were at the heart of church growth during the 1950s and 1960s. However, they began dropping out as they entered adulthood.

There has been a slight return as the Boomers became parents. However, Boomers are not strongly committed to the church. Nor are they loyal to one particular denomination or church.

Busters seem to avoid the institutional church as much as possible, but not because they are uninterested in spiritual things.

Researcher George Barna reports that nearly two-thirds of Busters say having a close relationship with God is important to them, yet only a third say being involved in any kind of church is important.

In a study of Boomers from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) titled "Vanishing Boundaries: The Religion of Mainline Protestant Baby Boomers," 500 Presbyterians confirmed from 1955 to 1965 were interviewed in 1993.

Slightly less than one-half of the participants are members of

any church at all. For those who are strongly involved in a church, the number one determining factor is the existence of a strong core of orthodox beliefs, especially the belief that salvation is found only in Christ.

Churches should note the importance of a central core of beliefs, the kind of beliefs that answer the essential questions of life, such as the nature of God, life after death, and how to find a meaningful life.

♦ **Change:** Boomers have experienced change as a significant aspect of life.

They went from the plane to the jet to the moon. Technology has brought consistent improvement in the quality of life.

Frenzied change has been a constant factor in the lives of Baby Busters.

For example, the personal computer was introduced less than 15 years ago. Now, a person with a laptop computer and a cellular phone can be in contact with the world.

Any church that would reach Boomers and Busters must change and expect to be changed.

♦ **Outlook on Life:** The Boomers' outlook on life can be summed up with one word: options. They have seen, and still see, many options in life.

In contrast, the Busters' outlook on life can be summed up with the word cynicism.

Baby Busters have been described as distrustful, disillusioned, and disappointed. Yet, they are searching for spiritual reality.

The Bible says in Matt. 9:36-38 (NAS): "And seeing the multitudes, he felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and downcast, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest.'"

The people of God must look upon the Boomers and Busters with the same eye of compassion as does Jesus.

This huge harvest of souls is without a shepherd. There is hope that these generations can be reached for Christ.

Suggested reading:

Barna, George, *The Invisible Generation: Baby Busters*. Chicago: Northfield Publishing, 1992.
Collins, Gary R. & Timothy E. Clinton, *Baby Boomer Blues*. Dallas: Word Publishing, 1992.
Hahn, Todd & David Verhaagen, *Reckless Hope: Understanding & Reaching Baby Busters*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1995.
Jones, Landon Y., *Great Expectations*. New York: Coward, McCann & Geophegen, 1980.
McIntosh, Gary L., *Three Generations: Riding the Waves of Change in Your Church*. Grand Rapids: Revell, 1995.

Romanian mission team meets

First Church, Brandon will host the January meeting of the Romanian-American Mission on Friday, Jan. 31 at 7 p.m. in the church's banquet hall.

Plans will be discussed for the upcoming annual mission trip to Romania. Romanian pastors and participants from past mission trips will speak at the meeting.

A meal will be provided at a cost of \$8 per person. Deadline for reservations is Monday, Jan. 20.

For more information and to make reservations, contact Wayne Ball at (601) 825-3365; or Farley Earnest, pastor of First Church, Brandon, at (601) 825-6766.

Proposed TV ratings system turn-off to many

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — A plan to implement a sex-and-violence ratings system for television — covering cartoons to soap operas — was met with skepticism by the head of the Southern Baptist Convention's Christian Life Commission (CLC).

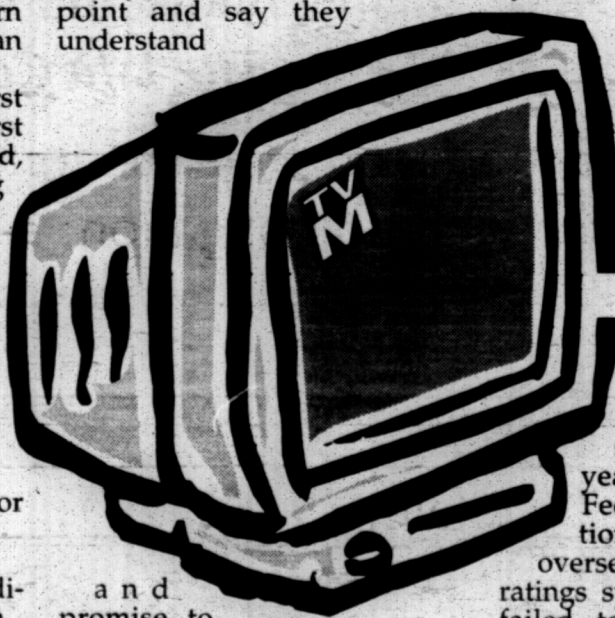
"This is not a significant first step; it is not a hopeful first step," said Richard D. Land, president of the CLC, calling the action a "deliberate subterfuge" to the real problem.

The plan, announced by Jack Valenti of the Motion Picture Association of America, would categorize television shows as:

- ♦ **TV-Y:** for all children.
- ♦ **TV-Y7:** inappropriate for children under age 7.
- ♦ **TV-G:** for general audiences not specifically children.
- ♦ **TV-PG:** parental guidance urged.
- ♦ **TV-14:** not for children under age 14.
- ♦ **TV-M:** adults over age 17 only.

ABC, NBC, CBS and Fox networks began implementation of the plan in Jan. 1997.

"For the entertainment industry to come forward at this point and say they understand



and promise to regulate themselves is to believe the proverbial fox has become a vegetarian and can be trusted to guard the chicken coop," Land said.

The Center for Media Education (CME), an advocacy group, led the chorus against the industry announcement,

and called for a more detailed content-based ratings system of programs' sex and violent scenes in lieu of an age-based system.

Such ratings would reveal the degree of sexual or violent content as well as offensive language.

Kathy Montgomery of CME said the proposed ratings plan was more about protecting profits than providing an effective tool for parents.

The Telecommunications Act passed by Congress earlier this year called upon the Federal Communications Commission to oversee development of a ratings system if the industry failed to voluntarily devise such a system by Feb. 1997.

Valenti's announcement was designed to thwart government action on a ratings system.

A centerpiece of the legislation was the requirement that television sets built after 1997 be equipped with an electronic component, a V-chip, that will

allow parents to regulate what shows can be seen on the television based on ratings codes.

The self-policed television ratings code thus takes on significant added importance.

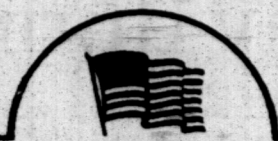
A study of network television during the "family hour," conducted by the University of California at Santa Barbara and released recently, revealed 75% of the shows during that hour from 8-9 p.m. contained some sexual content.

A similar study in 1976 revealed 43% had such content.

The study found more children watch television during that hour than on Saturday mornings or weekday afternoons.

"There is no question that for the most part TV has generated into an electronic cesspool," Land said, noting the networks' agreement to rate their shows is a weak first step in getting the airwaves cleaned up and may instead provide additional cover for the entertainment industry to broadcast more adult-themed programming than before.

"This is nothing more than a self-serving, counterproductive attempt to blow smoke by the industry," he said.



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Christians pray during Muslims' holy days

(Editor's note: Jan. 10 marks the beginning of Ramadan, an annual 30-day period when Muslims around the world fast and pray. Many Christians, including Southern Baptists, now observe the time by praying for Muslims as they seek the face of God.)

**In a world
filled with
confusion...
Is there any
hope?**

God's desire is to give you hope.

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes..."
Romans 1:16

Sin robs us of this life of hope!

"For the wages of sin is death..."
Romans 6:23

Jesus cares for you!

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."
Romans 5:8

It's your choice.

You must decide for yourself if you are willing to turn from your sins and ask Jesus into your heart.

"If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved."
Romans 10:9

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — God descended one night on a Muslim village in Algeria.

On that evening in 1983, villagers later testified, the Holy Spirit moved from house to house, revealing himself through dreams, visions, and angelic visitations.

Some 450 Muslims in the village eventually became believers in Christ as their Savior.

Christians had nothing to do with the incident — or so they thought — but when mission workers began asking how such a miracle could have occurred, they discovered this: More than six centuries ago, Spanish missionary Raymond Lull was stoned to death by Muslims for preaching where the village now stands.

Lull wrote before his death that Islamic strongholds would be conquered not by force, but only "by love and prayers, and the pouring out of tears and blood."

Today, the gospel continues to spread among Muslims across rural Algeria, despite the deadly conflict raging between Muslim militants and government forces, and documented persecution of Christian converts.

Elsewhere in the Muslim world, Christian workers report an increasing openness and turning to Christ — often preceded by dreams or visions of him among potential converts.

Several examples of such phenomena were detailed last year by the National & International Religion Report:

◆ Thousands of North African Muslims wrote to a Christian radio service asking for information. Many reported a similar dream: Jesus appears and tells them, "I am the Way."

◆ A young Muslim angrily took a Bible tract from a Christian worker, tore it up and threatened the worker's life.

The next day the same young man appeared at the worker's door, not with a

weapon but with a plea: "I must have another booklet."

The previous night, he recounted, he had felt two hands shake him awake and heard a voice say, "You have torn up the truth."

He read the tract and became a believer in Christ.

◆ In Nigeria, Muslims savagely beat a Christian convert from their tribe. As he lay dying, they heard him asking God to forgive them.

That night two Muslim mullahs who participated in the attack saw visions of Christ.

Both repented and took 80 followers to a Christian church to hear the Gospel.

Some reasons for the gospel's current spread among Muslims can be readily explained.

One is the much higher priority Christian groups — including Southern Baptists — now place on reaching major Muslim peoples, no matter how high the barriers.

Evangelical scholar Dudley Woodberry, an expert on Islam, cites these factors:

◆ secularization of the Middle East and reaction by rank-and-file Muslims against Islamic radicals.

◆ Christian relief ministries to Muslims.

◆ Muslim migration to more open areas.

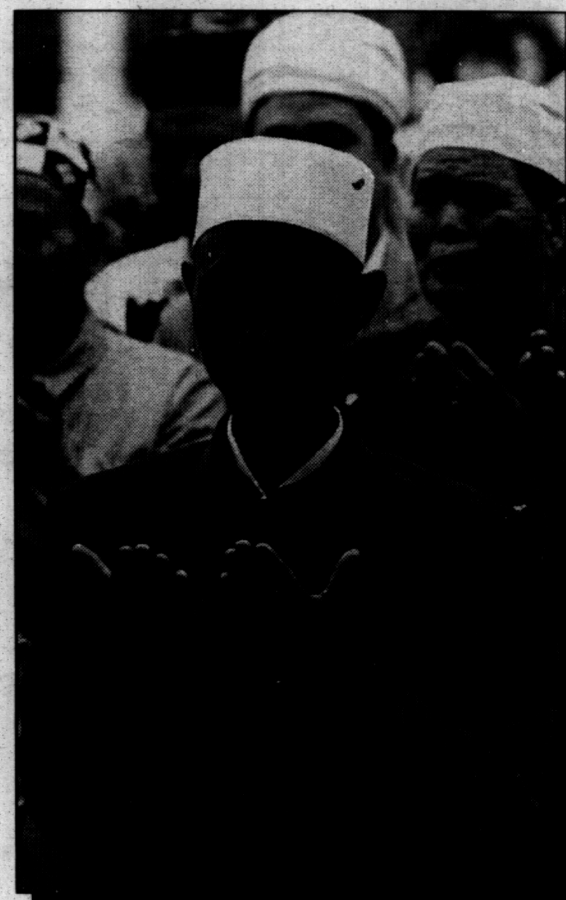
◆ a "desire for evidence of God's power" among Muslims.

◆ efforts to culturally adapt the gospel to Muslims.

The most important reasons cannot be explained apart from the initiative of God alone, and the proper response of his people called for by Raymond Lull before his martyrdom: love, prayer, tears, and blood.

"Every one of those things is happening," contends Randy Sprinkle, director of the Foreign Mission Board (FMB) international prayer strategy office.

"There is a love for Muslims that cannot be



SEEKING GOD — Muslims pray recently at the great mosque in Xian, China, a country with a mushrooming Muslim population. Ramadan — the 30 days each year when Muslims around the world fast and pray — begins Jan. 10. (BP Photo by Warren Johnson)

explained apart from its supernatural origin.

"There is a movement of prayer such as I've never seen in history, and there is the pouring out of tears and blood so that Muslims might be set free," Sprinkle says.

Christians are praying as never before for Muslims, individually and in groups, daily and through such annual efforts as the 30-day prayer focus during the Muslim observance of Ramadan — when millions of Christians lift up Muslims before God.

This year, Ramadan begins Jan. 10.

When Christians pray during Ramadan, "we're not praying to Allah," Sprinkle says. "We're joining Muslims during that period as they seek God. Christians are praying, 'Oh God, do that very thing. Reveal yourself in Christ to the Muslims of the world,'" he explained.

How he chooses to reveal himself is up to God.

"We can't tell him how he can and can't do things," Sprinkle stresses.

"If he chooses to do it in what to our Western minds is an unusual or mysterious way such as dreams or visions or angels, the Scriptures are full of examples of those," he said.

In fact, missionaries increasingly are being asked to "interpret" such dreams — a role for which they've had little experience or training, observes Lewis Myers, FMB vice president for strategies in World A, the least-evangelized world regions.

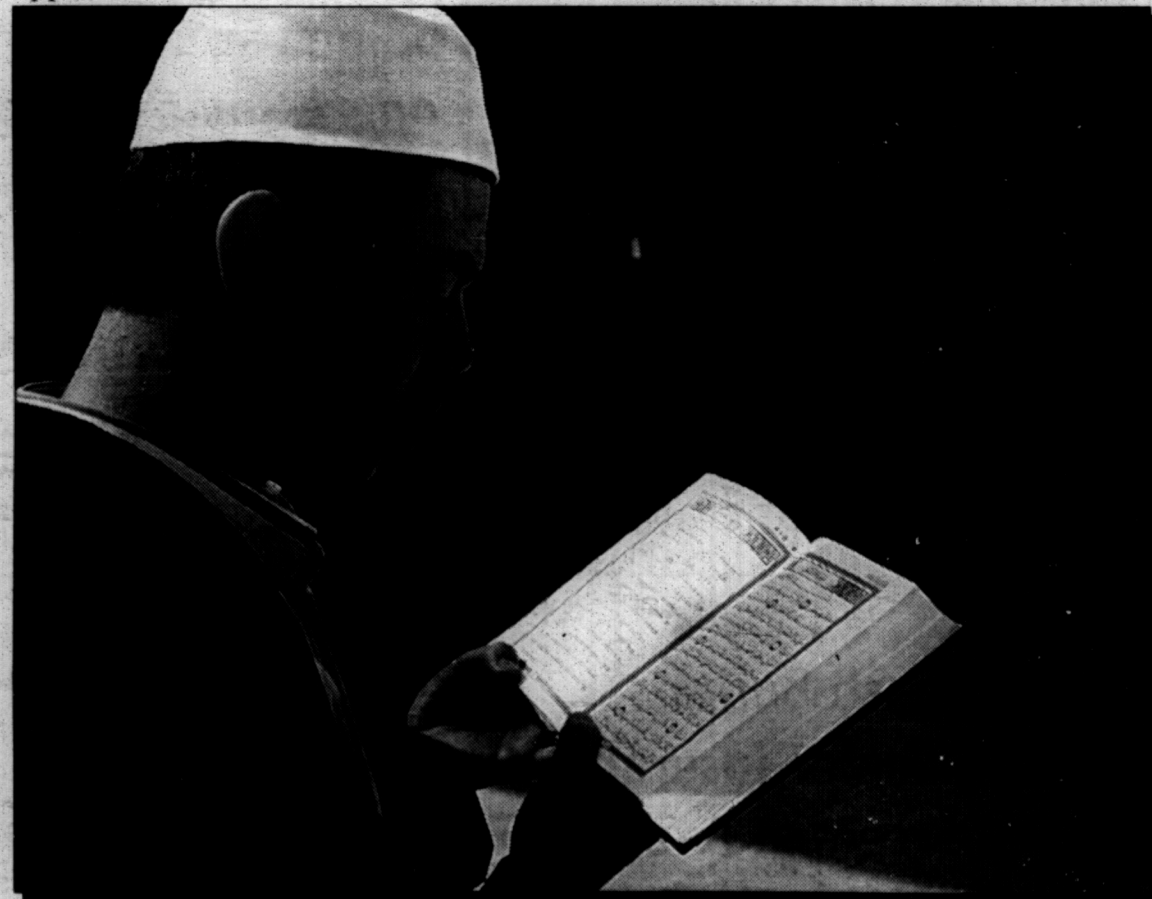
"People working among Muslims are very aware that the battles that go on in the hearts and minds of people (about Christ) are spiritual battles," Myers explains.

"It's warfare, and the tools of this kind of warfare come through spiritual means, the chief of which is prayer," he said.

That means your prayer.

Without it, Myers says, "we just can't be there."

For free copies of "30 Days of Prayer for Muslims," a daily prayer guide for use during Ramadan or any other time, call the Foreign Mission Board toll-free at (800) 866-FMB1.



SEARCHING FOR TRUTH — In western China, a Muslim contemplates the Koran, Islam's holy book. Seeking truth and purity takes priority for the faithful during Ramadan — the 30 days each year when Muslims worldwide fast and pray. (BP Photo by Warren Johnson)

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS

Matthew 10:27 NAS

January 16, 1997

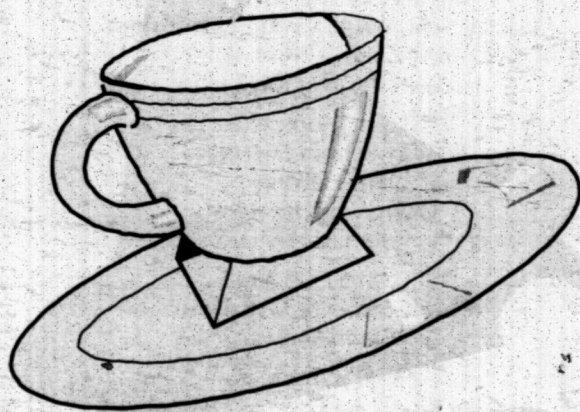
HouseTops is a **Baptist Record** supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Office of Communication.

EVANGELISTIC TEAMS NEEDED IN VENEZUELA

Venezuela Baptists are requesting 25 teams of two persons each to participate in an evangelistic effort in the South Central Baptist Association (including Valencia, Maracay, Calaboz and Puerto Ayacucho), March 7-17, 1997.

These teams will work primarily with missions that the Venezuela Baptists are seeking to constitute into churches in December 1997. The teams will do personal evangelism during the day and hold evangelistic meetings at night. Each team should have one person responsible for preaching in the evening services. Spouses will be teamed together. Interpreters will be supplied but each team member should have a personal testimony in good Spanish.

Inquiries should be directed to the Partnership Missions Office, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, or call (601) 968-3800, toll free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, or you may contact Sonny Adkins, Evangelism Director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.



Singles Rally

(Part of the Institute for Equipping Churches Beyond 2000)

Northern Rally

January 18, 1997

Tate BC, Corinth

- Begins at 6 p.m. with finger foods
- Special guest Renee S. Scheidt of China Grove, N Car. (a three-time recording artist)

State Rally

February 28, 1997

Ridgecrest BC, Madison

- Begins at 7 p.m. with finger foods
- Joey Rodgers and Phil Thurman of Jackson
- Comedy by Al Fike of Garland, Tex.
- Music by Manna of Biloxi
- A brief appearance by Elvis

COST IS \$5 IN ADVANCE OR \$7 AT THE DOOR.

For further information contact the
Discipleship and Family Ministry Department
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205
601/968-3800 800/748-1651

1997 Smaller* Sunday School Leadership Conference

March 24: New Prospect BC, Iuka

New Prospect BC, Brookhaven

March 25: FBC, Charleston

FBC, Lucedale

Times for all conferences will be 7-9 p.m.

No registration required.

Featuring conferences for
Sunday School leaders of:

PRESCHOOLERS

CHILDREN

YOUTH

ADULTS

as well as for:

Sunday School GENERAL OFFICERS

PASTORS

Come be a part of this exciting conference as we look at the wonderful work that can be accomplished through Sunday School.

Sponsored by the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

968-3800 (in Jackson) or toll free 800-748-1651

CompuServe e-mail: 70423,151

www2.misnet.com/~ssmbcb

*Generally churches with an enrollment of 150 or less. If you do not quite fit into this category, come on. We would love to have you be a part of this conference.

Conference for Church Business Administrators

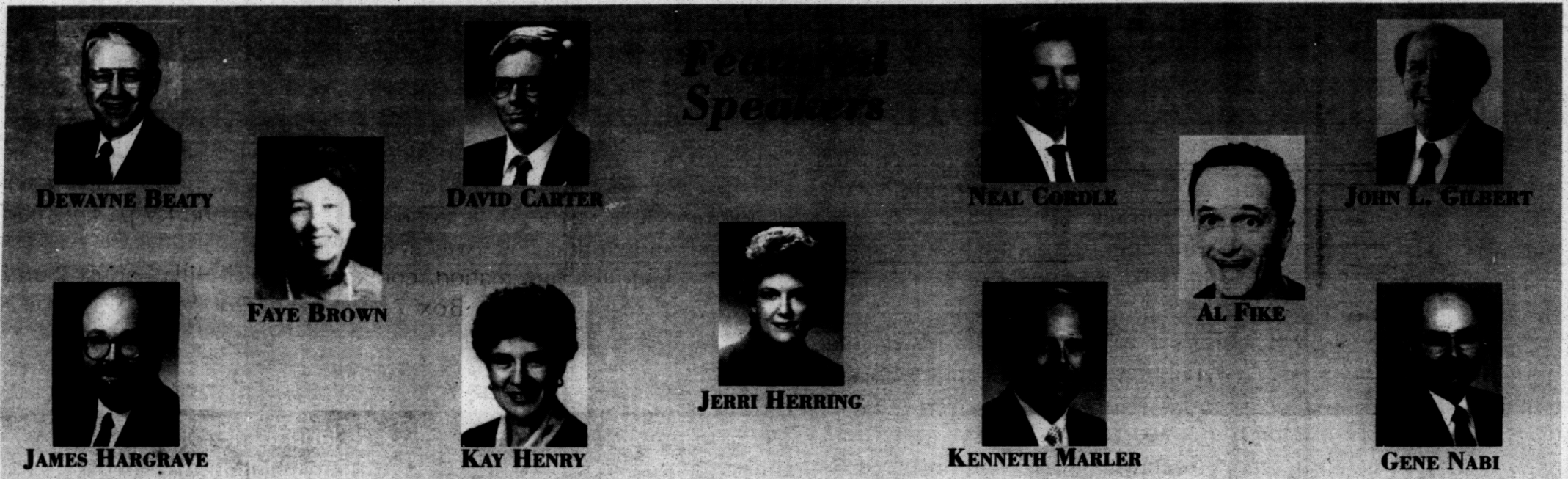
Those responsible for the business end of church work should begin planning now to attend the Church Business Administrators' Conference, Jan. 23, at Woodland Hills Baptist Church in Jackson.

Topics will deal with central purchasing and materials management, food services, building and property maintenance, payroll and employees, and managing church finances with integrity.

Institute for Equipping Churches

B E Y O N D 2 0 0 0

February 27 - March 1, 1997 Ridgecrest Baptist Church, Madison



The purpose of the Institute for Equipping Churches Beyond 2000 is to provide quality training at one place and time for as many people as possible.

Your church will benefit in many ways from this time of training. Workers do a better job and tend to serve longer when they are trained. Pupils are happier and more attentive when their leaders are trained.

Your participation in this institute is most warmly requested. The difference in churches is leaders and the difference in leaders is training!

THURSDAY

8:30-11:30 a.m.

Senior Adult Rally

Johnnie Foster, Dewayne Beaty, Faye Brown

9:00-11:30 a.m.

Preschool/Children's Forum

James Hargrave

Kay Henry

2:00-4:00 p.m.

First Contact

Kay Henry

WMU Leadership Team Update

WMU State Staff

2:00-4:30 p.m.

Doctrine Study Overview

John Gilbert

5:00-6:45 p.m.

Pastor/Staff Banquet

Bill Causey

5:45-6:45 p.m.

Minister's Wives Seminar

Rhonda Kelley

7:00-8:00 p.m.

Fresh Encounter Overview

David Carter

7:00-9:00 p.m.

Age Group Teaching Series

How to teach preschoolers using the resource

Love, Laughter and Learning-Kay Henry

How to teach children using the resource

Crayons, Computers and Kids-James Hargrave

How to teach teenagers using the resource

Connected, Committed and a Little Bit Crazy-Mark Lott

How to teach adults using the resource

Vision, Variety and Vitality-Neal Cordle

8:00-9:00 p.m.

Experiencing God Overview

David Carter

FRIDAY

9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Growth Spiral

Ken Marler

9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

MasterLife Overview

David Carter

9:00-11:30 a.m.

Truth Matters Overview

Ron Mumbower

Special Education

Gene Nabi

Preacher's Conference

Equipping Team

Women's Celebration

Rhonda Kelley

1:00-3:00 p.m.

Preacher's Conference

Equipping Team

Women's Celebration (cont.)

Rhonda Kelley

Truth Matters

Ron Mumbower

6:00-9:00 p.m.

Drama Festival-Woodland Hills BC

Wes Pegues

7:00-9:00 p.m.

SS Directors

Jerri Herring

Outreach Directors

Ken Marler

DT Adult Resources Showcase

David Carter

Singles Ministries

Joey Rodgers

10:00 p.m.-midnight

Singles Rally

Al Fike

SATURDAY

9:00-11:00 a.m.

DT Director Seminar

Mose Dangerfield

WMU Leadership Team Update

WMU State Staff

9:00-11:30 a.m.

How to Make the Most Out of Sunday School Age Group Curriculum

Neal Cordle, Mark Lott,

James Hargrave, Kay Henry

9:00 a.m.-noon (cont.)

Sunday School Directors

Jerri Herring

Outreach Directors

Ken Marler

10:00-11:00 a.m.

Family Ministry Overview

Glenn Shows

11:00 a.m.-noon

Making Love Last Forever Overview

Glenn Shows

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Dewayne Beaty-min. with Sr. Adults, Longview, TX

Faye Brown-author, humorist, Moundsville, AL

David Carter-Adult DT specialist, BSSB

Neal Cordle-Adult consultant, BSSB

Mose Dangerfield-DT director, MBCB

Al Fike-comedian, Garland, TX

Johnnie Foster-dramatist, Aberdeen, MS

John Gilbert-consultant, BSSB

James Hargrave-Children's consultant, BSSB

Kay Henry-Preschool consultant, BSSB

Jerri Herring-consultant, BSSB

Rhonda Kelley-professor, NOBTS, New Orleans, LA

Chuck Kelley-president, NOBTS, New Orleans, LA

Mark Lott-Youth consultant, MBCB

Ken Marler-consultant, BSSB

Ron Mumbower-min. with Counseling, Jackson, MS

Gene Nabi-Special Education consultant, BSSB

Joey Rodgers-min. with Singles, Jackson, MS

Glenn Shows-DT consultant, MBCB

Finding God's Will at Central Hills Retreat

Some say Central Hills Baptist Retreat is Mississippi Baptists' best kept secret. The 560 acre Mississippi Brotherhood retreat, opened in June 1979, is located 8 miles northwest of Kosciusko.

Campers from 224 Mississippi Baptist churches and 58 associations came to Central Hills in 1996. During the six weeks of summer mission camp, June 17-August 2 for Royal Ambassadors, Challengers and Lad/Dad Weekend camps, 1,071 campers attended.

These campers had an opportunity each Thursday at Campfire Service to make public decisions. There were 140 professions of faith, 279 rededications, 23 life vocation commitments and 9 other decisions. A total of 451 or 51% of the campers made decisions. On each Friday pastors of these campers' churches were notified.

During the off-season, mid August-mid May, Central Hills provides a convenient and excellent location for meetings and church retreats. This year 49 groups were involved in off-season activities at CHBR.

Many activities are available. These include bank fishing and canoeing in a 16 acre lake, swimming in a junior olympic-size

pool, horseback trail riding, hiking trails, primitive camping, and a small, low elements adventure/challenge ropes course.

Available facilities include a four bunk room lodge building with an assembly room, a worship area on the south shore of the lake, an amphitheater, a campfire worship area, a chapel pavilion, and a conference room in the infirmary building. Food service is provided in the Camp Center dining room.

Campers on Mission (COM), a partnership of the Brotherhood Department, MBCB, have had an active part in all phases of construction and operation at Central Hills.

The Campers on Mission have elected to sponsor and have begun work on a new construction project on the northeast side of the lake. The project will include a much needed multi-purpose building with bathrooms, kitchenette, dining and meeting room and RV parking pads. The basic dirt work is underway at the present.

For scheduling information, contact: Central Hills Baptist Retreat, Dan West, manager, P.O. Box 723, Kosciusko, MS 39090-0723; 601/289-9730.




February 28 - March 1
Woodland Hills Baptist Church, Jackson

Offering conferences for both the
experienced and inexperienced in:

*Drama
Clowning
Puppetry
Church Recreation*

For further information contact the Discipleship and
Family Ministry Department of the MBCB at
968-3800 in Jackson or toll-free 1-800-748-1651.



January 19, 1997
Woodland Hills Baptist Church
6 p.m. in sanctuary
Public Invited

A music/drama ensemble of the
Church Music Department, MBCB
Sharing the Song of Jesus

Mississippi Single Ministers Fellowship Retreat

(for paid staff ministers responsible for singles)

Thursday and Friday, January 23-24, 1997

Ramada Inn Coliseum, Jackson

Conference leader will be

Steve Smith, minister with singles
Prestonwood Baptist Church, Dallas, Tex.

Thursday's session begins at 6:00 p.m.

Friday's session is from 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Those present will set the agenda


Cost: **\$50** (Does not include lodging and meals.)

Make check payable to

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION BOARD

and mail to Glenn Shows

P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.



Eleventh
Mississippi Baptists
In Broadcasting

April 18-19, 1997
Calvary BC, Jackson

The MBIB Awards have been created to recognize radio and video productions which demonstrate excellence in message design and production in helping to bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus.

One award will be given for VIDEO (broadcast or non-broadcast) and one award for RADIO in each category in each division. One award only for Best First Time Entry.

1. BEST PROGRAM
 - A. MISSIONS / EVANGELISM
 - B. CHURCH MUSICALS
 - C. COMMUNITY SERVICE (i.e., human interest, sports, and others)
2. BEST SPOT
3. BEST FIRST TIME ENTRY.

Division I

People using VHS Camcorders or other consumer/industrial-grade equipment in production as well as volunteers or small budget projects.

Division II

People using S-VHS, 3/4-inch, 3/4-inch SP, BetaCam and other broadcast type equipment. Also have a professional in charge or outside production house. (This also applies to radio stations or other professional sound productions.)

Entries must be received by 4:45 p.m. on February 24 1997.

For further information and an entry form, please contact the office of
Broadcast Services, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205
or call 601/968-3800 in Jackson, or toll free 800/748-1651.

Pray this day for...

January 17-30, 1997

Prayer Ministry Office • P. O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 968-3800, Ext. 3904 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY

"Prayer is not simply some necessary compartment in the daily schedule of a Christian or a source of support in time of need, nor is it restricted to Sunday morning or as a frame to surround mealtimes. Prayer is living."

-Henri Nouwen

Venezuelan Baptists have planned an evangelistic crusade for Mar. 7-17, 1997. Pray that there will be enough volunteers to meet the needs of this crusade.

Pray for Area Conducting/Instrumental/Vocal Festival; Harvey BC, Petal; 6-8 pm; sponsored by the Church Music Department.

Pray for Area Conducting/Instrumental/Vocal Festival; N. Oxford BC, Oxford/Baptist Building, Jackson; 6-8 pm; sponsored by the Church Music Department.

Each year Muslims observe a month of fasting and prayer known as Ramadan. Ask God to reveal Himself in Jesus Christ to Muslims especially during Jan. 10-Feb. 8.

Pray for the 7.1 million Chinese people in Hainan Island, SE of China who need to hear the Gospel.

Pray for "Design Your Sunday School: Consultant Training," Ridgecrest BC, Madison; 5 pm, 17th-12:15 pm, 18th sponsored by Sunday School Department

For State Orchestra Festival, Broadmoor BC, Jackson 8:30 am-12:30 pm sponsored by Church Music Dept.

Many Korean university students do not know Jesus as Savior. Pray for missionaries Randy & Anita Jordan, that they will be effective communicators of Christ among these students.

Pray that the new peace agreement between the government and Muslim Separatists will bring greater opportunity to share the Gospel in every part of Mindanao, Philippines.

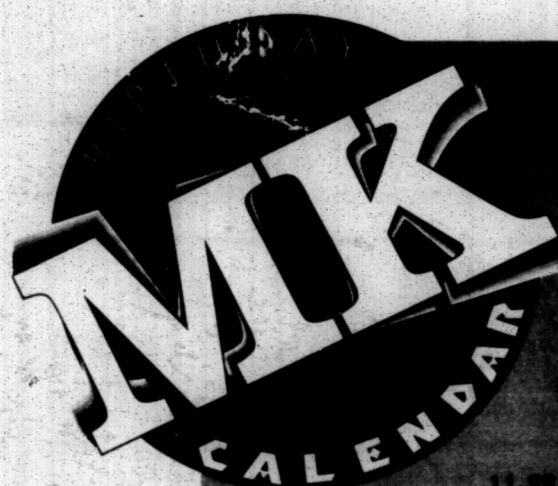
Pray for the millions of non-believers in Jordan to see the gospel lived out in the lives of believers. For the State Evang. Conf. Broadmoor BC, Jackson 1:30 pm, 27th-9 pm, 28th.

Please ask of God a revival and spiritual awakening for our Nigerian pastors. Pray that they will bow in humble submission and obedience to the will of God.

For a possible church start in Brazil. Dilmar & his family (church members) and missionaries John & Kathy Vaughan, are moving to a neighborhood where over 85% of the residents are on the police force.

Pray for the Baptist World Alliance. BWA unites 188 Baptist conventions/unions (including SBC) and 153,000 local congregations into one great fellowship of love.

Pray for the Mississippi Baptist Religious Education Association annual convention Jan. 30-Feb. 1 at the Ramada Inn, Tupelo.



- 16-93 Mr. DAVID A. VAUGHN, Caixa Postal 625
93.001-970 Caixa do Sul, RS, BRAZIL
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- 24-89 Miss ROBYN L. KYZAR
105 Billy Byrd Drive, Clinton, MS 39056
Parents: Russell & Melinda, Literature Distribution/Promotion; COSTA RICA
- 25-72 Mr. DEVIN MEILSTRUP (Mississippi College Student)
116 Meadow Lane Circle, Clinton, MS 39056
Parents: Dennis & Sherrie, Music Promotion; ARGENTINA
- 25-84 Mr. LEDGER C. PARKER
P. O. Box 943, Brandon, MS 38042
Parents: Jeffrey & Shiela, General Evangelism; ENGLAND
- 26-79 Mr. DERON K. MEILSTRUP, Diaz Valez 306
1636 La Lucila, Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA
Parents: Dennis & Sherrie, Music Promotion
- 27-88 Miss ALLISON L. MARTIN, Casilla de Correo 5
8400 San Carlos de Bariloche, ARGENTINA
Parents: Asbury & Hope, General Evangelism

1997 Young Ringers Festival

Saturday, March
First Baptist Church
Brandon

Clinician
Director of Worship and Music
Trinity United Methodist Church

Jerry [Name] Consultant
Church [Name]

HOUSE TOPS



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LEAVE PK UNBELIEVERS

Editor:

My letter is in response to a statement made by Tim Nicholas in his article entitled "Executive committee adds MBCB positions" in the Dec. 12 edition of "The Baptist Record":

"Other areas of possible work would be in developing Christian fellowship in such groups as school administrations or attorneys, and in providing follow-up to Baptist participation in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes or Promise Keepers."

I object to the rationale of the entire paragraph, but my most strenuous challenge is to the Promise Keepers (PK).

PK is a movement that is doctrinally unsound and without a theology of the church that will build Christ's church in the sense of the New Testament.

Almost from the beginning PK has pushed for dissolving the barriers of denominationalism.

Are your seniors tired of crawling over the HUMP? The solution is a 15-passenger van with an aisle, raised roof & electric step.

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Also, what about the involvement of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormonism) with PK?

PK is a part of the Vineyard movement and its top leadership are members of the Vineyard, which holds some serious doctrinal errors itself.

So now we have PK, Catholics, and Mormons together. This is in direct conflict with II Cor. 6:14 (and) Gal. 1:9.

A pastor who takes or sends his men to a PK rally is a non-discerning shepherd of the flock of God, for he is not protecting his congregation from the wolves.

Promise Keepers may be the greatest ecumenical deception in the history of the church.

Roman Catholicism is a pagan religion and Mormonism is a cult.

As a fundamentalist, I believe that the Bible teaches separation from unbelievers and erring brethren.

Bennett Blanton
Houston

GOD BREAKS BARRIERS

Editor:

The World Day of Prayer was hosted by the New Life Fellowship Church, an African-American congregation of Jackson, on Nov. 3.

The theme of the meeting was "Celebrate the Joy of Christ."

It was jointly sponsored by the Metro Association and the Metro Woman's Missionary Union (WMU). Charles Thurman, pastor of the host church, welcomed the group.

The united prayer of those present was, "Let our prayers encircle the globe for people of the world who are without hope."

Seasons of prayer were directed for Africa, Europe, North America, Latin America, and South West Pacific.

Three "B" countries of the world were emphasized: Bangladesh, Burundi, and Bulgaria.

The diversity of the group was recognized with thanksgiving, "God is at work breaking down barriers."

In a world of division and darkness, Christians of all races are called to be light."

The director of the Metro WMU, Lois Henderson, challenged the group: "This day challenges us to join hands and hearts around the world."

Indy Whitten
Clinton

PROUD OF WCC

Editor:

I am proud of my school! As an alumnus of William Carey College (WCC) I am proud of the trustees and the administration for taking the bold step of amending and restating their articles of incorporation on Nov. 7.

While we at the annual Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC) in October spent a lot of time trying to sugar coat the fact that our colleges could have total autonomy at any time they please, trustees and administration found a way to assure the MBC that they were solidly in the fold.

As trustee chairman Ben Carlisle stated, the action taken "is intended to make it clear that if a vacancy exists on the board that the messengers to the annual meeting of the MBC will have the ultimate authority to elect a trustee for such a vacancy."

In an age when many of our traditionally Christian colleges are moving away from the equipping of students for service to God in their chosen pro-

fessions and are moving more to the secular definition of liberal arts education, WCC is placing a new emphasis on education to minister for our Lord.

I am proud of the increased emphasis and enrollment in the church related vocation areas at WCC.

I am proud of the trustees and administration.

I am proud that we do not have to wonder where WCC will stand from year to year.

I am proud that WCC remembers why it is there and where it came from.

I am proud of my school!

J. E. Sims, pastor
Fellowship Church, Starkville

CELEBRATING 125 YEARS

Editor:

Pleasant Grove Church, Brookhaven, will celebrate 125 years in March 1997.

We have been trying to obtain pictures of all the pastors of our church.

There are a few we have been unable to locate.

If anyone knows the following men and know how to contact them or any of their families, I would appreciate hearing from them:

- J. E. Lowe (1901-02)
- R. N. Hamilton (1906-07)
- C. S. Morris (1909-11)
- Carl O'Neal (1911)
- J. R. Kyzar (1911-13)
- G. W. Gates (1917)
- Bennie Sandifer (1919)
- George Darling (1923)
- B. A. Miley (1933)
- E. N. Sullivan (1944)
- Tom Jackson (1964)

We would return any pictures sent if we could get a copy.

Billy P. Smith
1837 Hwy 84 West
Brookhaven MS 39601

Joe H. Tuten, retired pastor dies

Joe H. Tuten, 74, retired pastor of Calvary Church, Jackson, died of heart failure Jan. 11. Funeral services were held Jan. 13 at Calvary Church.

A native of South Carolina, Tuten was a graduate of Furman University, Greenville, S. C., and

earned a doctorate in theology from New Orleans Seminary.

Tuten retired at Calvary Church in 1988 after serving as pastor for 27 years. His former pastorates were First Church, Biloxi; Calvary Church, New Orleans; and First Church, Belle Chasse, La.

After his retirement at Calvary Church, Tuten taught Old Testament survey at Mississippi College.

Tuten was a member of Woodland Hills Church, Jackson.

Tuten has been a member of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee of Southern Baptist Hospitals, a trustee of William Carey College, and chairman of the Mississippi Baptist Convention's Education Commission, in addition to many other places of leadership in religious affairs.

Survivors include his wife: Ruth, Jackson; son: Joe H. Tuten Jr., Wiley, Ga.; daughter: Jan Tuten, Hattiesburg; three grandsons; sister, Francina T. Cisa, Mount Pleasant; and brother, James W. Tuten, both of South Carolina.

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This Announcement is neither an offer or a solicitation of an offer to buy. The offer is made only by prospectus. For more complete information about this bond issue, obtain a prospectus which describes all of the particulars of this undertaking. Read it carefully before you invest or send money. All bonds are offered at face value plus accrued interest, subject to prior sale.

For more information, call or write to:

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New Prospect Baptist Church
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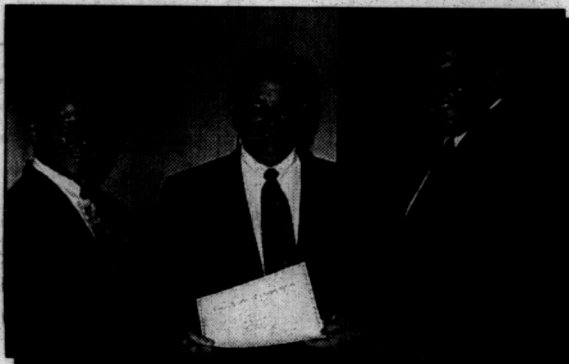
NAMES IN THE NEWS



Don Parish was recently licensed to the ministry by Fellowship Church, Starkville. Parish is employed by Mississippi State University and is serving as minister of music and youth at Fellowship Church. Pictured, from left, are J. E. Sims, pastor, and Parish.



Baptist Student Union (BSU) drama group "Acts, Too" of Mississippi State University is available to lead worship services, retreats, youth activities, and banquets. Pictured, from left, are Jamie Vickers, Starkville; Angel Phillips, Eupora; Tracey Kilgore, Houston; Ella Harrod, Winterhaven, Fla.; David Matthews, Meridian; Andy Beachum, Tupelo; Michael Gray, Eupora; and Ray Campbell, Columbus. For more information, contact the BSU at (601) 323-5761.

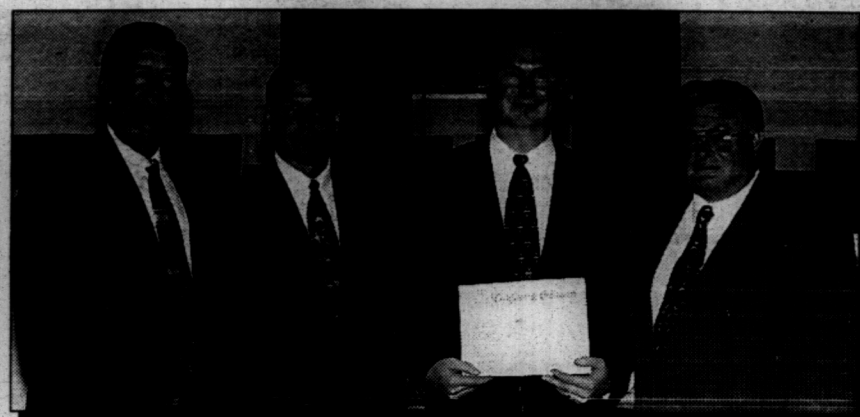


Ernest Sadler, director of missions, Jackson Association, and South Mississippi pastors **Ben Carlisle**, **Jerry Watts**, and **Jerry Mixon** participated in the Mobile Ministers Association Golf Tournament, Mobile, Ala., in December. Top hon-

ors were given to Watts and Mixon who won their division.

Wynndale Church, Terry, has named **Charles Gentry** as pastor emeritus. Gentry, first

Ann Leeman Tarpley, 84, wife of Fred Tarpley, pastor of Old Rice Road Church, Madison, died of heart failure Jan. 2 at Manhattan Health Care Center, Jackson. Services were held Jan. 6 at Ridgecrest Church, Madison. She was a native of Goodlettsville, Tenn., and a graduate of Southern Seminary. She taught Bible for seven years in the early years of Hillcrest Christian School, Jackson, and served two years



Pleasant Grove Church, Brookhaven, recently ordained **Garland Boyd** to the ministry. Participating in the ordination service were (from left) Talmadge Smith, director of missions, Lincoln Association; Kent Cochran, pastor, Pleasant Grove Church; Boyd; and James Sanders, pastor, Pleasant Hill Church, Quitman.



First Church, Tutwiler, ordained **Thomas Callicutt**, **Charles Thomas**, **Carroll Bruister**, and **Ronnie Smith** to the deacon ministry. Pictured, from left, are J. B. Hays Jr., pastor; Callicutt and his wife Jean; Thomas and his wife Jean; Bruister and his wife Janie; Smith and his wife Georgianna; and Truman Scarborough, director of missions for North Central Association.

on the staff of Crestwood Church, Jackson. Other survivors include: sons, Fred Tarpley Jr. of Washington, D.C., John Tarpley of Nashville, Tenn., and Joe Tarpley of Madison; two sisters; one brother; and seven grandchildren.

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Oral Church, Sumrall, ordained **Monroe McManus** as a deacon on Oct. 27. McManus, a graduate of William Carey College, serves as minister of music at Oral Church. Douglas Benedict, director of missions for Lamar Association, delivered the ordination message. Pictured, from left, are Benedict, McManus, and Thomas McCormick, pastor.

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Are the Days of Visitation Dead?

One of the most frightening experiences for any Christian is walking up to a door on Monday night to make a visit. Thoughts of hostile hounds, doors slamming in their face, and questions being asked that would confound even a biblical scholar combine to make "prospect visitation" one of the least favorite events for most Christians.

Church leaders are frantically seeking a replacement for old-fashioned knocking on doors. Publicly, our leaders tell us that the lifestyle of modern day America does not lend itself to such an antique approach. Privately, the real reason may lie in our leaders' laziness. An even more tragic underlying attitude may be our leaders' refusal to make winning people to Christ and recruiting them for church membership a personal priority of time and effort.

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Dr. Jim Butler, Pastor
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EUROPEAN TRAVEL: I am a conservative Baptist minister that is coordinating a tour to England and Scotland in June 1997. For more information contact Timothy Hamblin in Birmingham at (205) 979-0381 between 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m.

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH of Eureka, Missouri is prayerfully accepting resumes until March 15, 1997 for a dynamic, full-time Youth/Music Minister to serve in a rapidly growing community. Send resumes

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PEWS & PULPIT FURNITURE FOR SALE. Emmanuel Baptist Church, Ruston, LA is renovating! Sanctuary furniture including colonial pews (9,10,14 feet) in mahogany & white with gold cushioning, two (5-ft) pulpit pews, communion table, pulpit, and music stand are to be sold. Available January 1. If interested contact the church office (318) 255-0446 or write: Renovation Committee, 1200 Farmerville Hwy., Ruston, LA 71270.

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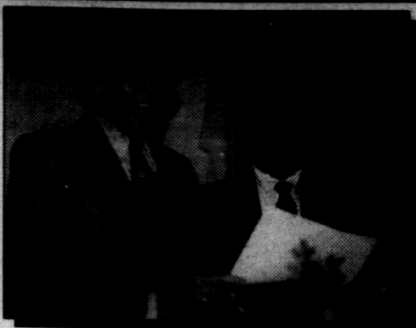
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ALL SIZES
SALES AND RENTALS

JUST FOR THE RECORD

Single Adult Ministry of Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, will sponsor the 1997 Barn Yard Bash at the Jim Buck Ross Agriculture Museum Forestry Building, 6-10 p.m., on Jan. 18. The price of admission is \$5. For further information, call (601) 956-5000.

Bill Duncan (left), DOM of Oktibbeha Association, presents a certificate of ordination to **Randy Rigdon** (right), who was ordained to the gospel ministry Nov. 24 by the Mt.



Rigdon

Vernon Church, Columbus. Rigdon is pastor of Murrah's Chapel, a mission sponsored by

the Mt. Vernon congregation.

Southside Church, Meridian, recently emphasized the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering with a Birthday for Jesus Cake. The senior adults including Eula Randall, the oldest member of the church, attended the event. Wayne Riley is pastor.

The Cumberland Boys, Nashville, Tenn., will be in concert at New Hope Church, Gulfport, Jan. 21 at 7 p.m. For more information, call (601) 832-1975.

Wade Church, Jackson Association, will honor Bill Barton, pastor, and his wife Jean on their fourth anniversary at 5

p.m. on Feb. 2. Barton also pastored Jackson Avenue Church, Pascagoula, for seven years, and churches in Alabama. Barton is founder of the Home of Grace, a home for alcoholics and drug addicts and a homeless shelter for men and women.

Wynndale Church, Terry, burned the note for the sanctuary at Homecoming on Oct. 20. The note was paid off one year early. Don Gann is pastor.

First Church, Sumrall, is seeking a full time youth minister. For more information, call Bentley Carter, chairman of the search committee, (601) 268-0346 (evening) or Jipper Williford, pastor, (601) 268-3961.



North Columbia Church, Marion Association, held ground breaking ceremonies on Sept. 8 for a new sanctuary. Pictured are (front row) Dan W. McKenzie, chairman of deacons and member of building steering committee; Philip Duncan, pastor; Jerry W. Pittman, chairman of building steering committee; (back row) Elwood Pittman, H. B. Rowell, Jimmy McDaniel, Melvin Jones Jr., and Ralph Prine, members of building steering committee; and Robert Carter, contractor.



Liberty Church, Amite County, held Dedication Services for a Family Life Center on Nov. 10. Pictured, front row, from left, deacons are Bill Mabry Jr., N. B. Travis Jr.; Thomas Johnson, chairman of deacons; Martin Hayden, pastor; Ray Austin, chairman of building committee; second row, James Copeland, Wayne Stokes, John Davis Tynes, O. D. Judge Jr., Mike Tynes, Jerry Laird, and Clay Caston.



Mt. Zion Church, Columbus, celebrated the paying off of its sanctuary indebtedness (close to \$1,000,000) on Nov. 24. Pictured, from left, are Billy Rollins; Dick Rollins; Bob Reeves; Juanice Hayes; Ronnie Colburn; Ronnie West, chairman of building committee; Richard Junkin; Janet Thweatt; Ralph Youngblood; and Ralph Windle, pastor of Mt. Zion Church.



GAs of First Church, Crystal Springs, fifth and sixth-graders, recently celebrated a Missions Festival. The guests were Gwen and Jim Allen, missionaries to Panama. Fifth-grade girls shared information about the country they chose to represent. Pictured, from left, are Olivia Lang, Jackie Stowe, Allison Bryant, Mallory Sullivan, Morgan Sprouse, DeeAnna Runnels, Marcy McDonald, Gwen Allen, Jim Allen, and Lori Walters.



Acteens from Macedonia Church, Petal, received crowns. Pictured, from left, are Amanda Meadows, Beth Bullock, Ashley Smith, and Holly McGregor. Not pictured was Crystal Parker. As a special recognition the Acteens attended Queen's Court at Camp Garaywa.

BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

Keith Tipton, an adjunct history professor on the New Orleans campus of William Carey College, was elected to a three year term on the Executive Board of the Louisiana Baptist Convention.

The City of Hattiesburg

Concert Band, under the direction of David Young, will perform at William Carey College in Smith Auditorium, 3 p.m., Jan. 26. Young is professor of music and director of the instrumental program at William Carey College. For more information, call (601) 582-6175.

H. Jordan, minister, dies Jan. 1

Harold Cooper Jordan, 78, died of heart failure on Jan. 1 in Vicksburg. Services were held Jan. 3 at Bowmar Avenue Church, Vicksburg, and burial in Lakewood Cemetery, Clinton.

A native of Kosciusko, Jordan was a graduate of Bob Jones College, Cleveland, Tenn. He served 24 years as industrial chaplain at Marathon-LeTourneau. He also served as president of the Mississippi Baptist Chaplain's Association.

Jordan was the founder and director of Jackson Youth for Christ. He served as pastor at First Church, Madison; Mount Pisgah Church, Sand Hill; and Bowmar Avenue Church.

Survivors include his wife Sarah Nettles Jordan; daughter Jan Rogers; and two grandchildren.

FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

Respect human life

Gen. 1:27; Matt. 5:13-16, 21-22, 27-28, 43-45a

By Mary Ellen Powell

Is there respect for human life? Our society seems to answer "NO!" God, however, greatly values human life and as his children we have a responsibility to value it as well.

Source of Life (Gen. 1:27). We came from God. In the very beginning God created us and said, "It is very good." God loves us and has shown his love by sending his Son to die for us. Certainly if the Creator of the universe feels we are worthy of his love and his Son, then our lives are of value.

Role in Society (Matt. 5:13-16). Jesus tells us in these verses that we are first to be salt. Salt was connected with purity, used

as a preservative, and used to give flavor in Jesus' day. Christians should be salt in our world in all of its meanings. We should be pure, we should preserve ourselves and our society from the corruption of sin, and we should give flavor to the world around us. Jesus also said that we are light. We are not to become a Christian and then hide our Christianity — our light — away. Instead, we are to let the light of Christ shine through us.

Our society needs salt and light in a world where the things of God are disregarded. As our world continues to devalue human life, we must take a stand.



Powell

Value of Human Life (vv.21-22). Christians are commanded not only to not murder, but to deal with the emotions that lead to rash actions. We are to keep our tempers in check. That does not mean we are to remain unaffected by the injustices of our society but it does mean that we are not to be angered due to a personal wrong which is suffered.

Jesus commanded us to respect persons with the language we use. All persons created by God — the born and the unborn — are worthy of dignity and respect and labeling people as "fools" or "stupid" is demeaning.

As Christians, we have a responsibility to show respect even to those who have made mistakes in their past. To the unwed mother we should offer love and acceptance and make her aware of the alternatives to

abortion such as adoption. We have a great responsibility to show love and acceptance for those who find themselves pregnant outside of marriage and also for those who have had an abortion. Jesus always gives comfort and mercy to the sinner in need. We, as his children, must give those same things.

Purity in Relationships (vv. 27-28). Jesus is speaking directly about the issues of sexual impurity. Sex was designed as a special gift between husband and wife. Taken outside of that context, sex can damage a person physically and emotionally, leaving guilt and regret in the place of lust. Emotions such as these leave persons feeling demeaned.

Unfaithfulness within marriage can leave a family, or families, devastated. Not only does true love wait for marriage, it doesn't even ask outside of marriage. As Christian parents, we have a responsibility to explain to young people God's desire for

us in relation to sexuality. We must live lives above reproach in the area of sexual purity, not even thinking about things that would lead us astray.

For those who have allowed themselves to be caught up in the lure of sexual impurity there is hope. When we accept Christ as Savior, we accept his forgiveness and his love, but we also accept his power to change our lifestyles and, thus, change our lives through him.

Respect in Action (vv. 43-45a). Why do we finish this lesson with verses on loving your neighbor? Because for a Christian, everyone is our neighbor — the born and the unborn. If we truly love our neighbor, we must show respect for them and their lives. What is the result of respecting the lives and dignity of others? We are called "sons of our Father in heaven."

Powell is a member of First Church, Clinton.

LIFE AND WORK

Lord of human life

Matthew 9:18-38

By Thad Moore

A popular, Christian song states an important truth: "no one ever cared for me like Jesus." Christ cares for every person and wants us to care for others.

A concern for life (Matt. 9:18-19 - 23-26). Jesus has just responded to a question about fasting from the disciples of John the Baptist. A synagogue ruler named Jairus comes and kneels before Jesus and asks him to help his dead daughter. Immediately, Jesus goes with the hurting ruler.

Can't you feel the love and compassion Jesus had for Jairus and his daughter? Someone has said compassion is your pain in

my heart. Jesus is the all powerful Son of God that has love for the helpless and weak. No one is beyond his love and care. It is dangerous for anyone to take a life, because God holds life in high regard.

Jesus goes to the dead girl, takes her by the hand, and raises her from the dead. The situation seemed hopeless to everyone except Christ. He uses his power to help others. He expects us to do the same.

Someone has said absolute power corrupts absolutely. Of course Jesus is the exception to the above statement. He has all power, yet used his powers to



Moore

minister to others. How do you use the power God has given you? How do you treat the people with whom you live and work? How do you use your power to help those in need?

A concern for wholeness (9:27-31). As Jesus left Jairus' house he stopped by two blind men. They plead for mercy and Jesus lovingly responds to them. He touches their eyes and their sight is restored.

In Jesus' ministry, whatever the need he responds. He cared for a dead girl, a sick woman, and two blind men. All of these concerns are different, yet Jesus ministered in every situation.

Jesus ministered to the entire person when he chose to help someone. He was concerned about the physical and the spiritual. Our personal ministries and the ministries of our

church should reflect the love of Jesus for people's needs.

A challenge to involvement (9:36-38). A faithful deacon told me: "The problem at the church is when the pastor says let's move the piano, everyone grabs the bench." Jesus calls us to move the piano and quit playing with the bench. There are too many hurting people for us to be resting in Zion.

After Jesus had gone through several towns, he saw crowds of people and he was moved because of their needs. He realized they needed leadership, not the uncaring leadership of the Jews.

Jesus tells his disciples how to respond to overwhelming needs of the world. First of all they were to see the need for more workers. Where are you working in God's harvest? Secondly, they were to pray. They were to ask God for more workers. Maybe we should spend less

time talking to people about God and more time talking to God about people. The field is God's. He knows where to get the workers, if we ask him.

Edmond Burke stated, "The only thing needed for evil people to triumph is for good people to be silent." Albert Einstein wrote, "The world is dangerous to live in, not because of the people who do evil, but because of the people who stand by and let them." It is time for the people of God to stand up for the precious gift of life.

With the needs in our world, no Christian can sit on the bench and be comfortable. We are called to trade comfort for pain, security for insecurity, and sacrifice over having my needs met. Lives matter to God. People need to be loved. Jesus gave his life for people. Will we do the same? All life is precious to God.

Moore is pastor, First Church, Holly Springs.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Sanctity of human life

Genesis 1:27; Matthew 5

By Mark Long

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday is when we emphasize the value of human life. Looking at society, it is clear that not all people apply "value" to human life the same as does God's Word. More than valuing life, we must recognize it as holy. The word "sanctify" means "to make holy." Expressing that human life is holy and sacred conveys a much stronger message than simply saying we value human life.

Male and Female (Gen. 1:27). What is the basis of the Christian value system for life? God's Word is the basis of all knowledge for the Christian.

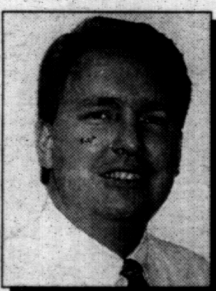
Genesis 1:27 shows that life is God's creation. Life belongs

to God, not us. As God's possession, life is holy. However, when life is not lived within God's order for his creation, it becomes profane.

By creating us in his image, God intended for life to be holy, emulating him. The Bible teaches that death was the result of sin. Sin destroys life, but the gift of God through Jesus Christ is life (John 10:10).

Whether aiding the humblest of people, rescuing the most helpless, or restoring the one who wandered farthest from God's ideal for life, Jesus did — and does — restore godly/holy value to life. Thus, through Jesus we can live and value life in a holy manner.

Note also that God created



Long

and ordered human life in two forms, male and female. Sanctified living highly values both genders and their respective godly differences.

Salt and Light (Matt. 5:13-16). Jesus described the Christian life as salt. The point is the salt's purity. If salt is contaminated enough, it is not useful for its intended purpose. If life is profaned enough, it is useless for God's intention.

Jesus also described the Christian life as light. Special effort must be exerted to hinder the natural shining of light. God's light naturally shines through the Christian, unless covered up by profane living.

Profane living is any activity outside of God's order. Homosexuality, lying, stealing, drug and alcohol abuse, etc... These are all profane life. God's people must treat life as holy, living faithfully unto him.

Murder and Anger (Matt.

5:21-22). Jesus always directed people toward God's law for the heart. Anger in and of itself is not sinful. God and Jesus get angry (18:34; 21:12-17; 22:7). However, anger which leads to the lowering of another's value, such as bigotry, is wrong for God's people. It is a root of murder.

Murder ends a life that God began. God bestows life, and people are not to steal it.

On Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, abortion is thought of most often. I believe abortion is wrong. Has a woman ever conceived by a man, and thus given birth to anything other than a human? How then can one deny that what the woman carries is anything other than essentially human? However, all murder and devaluing of human life is out of God's order.

Adultery and Lust (Matt. 5:27-28). God's Word is clear: sex outside of marriage is wrong. Jesus, again sanctifying

human life, directs toward God's law for the heart. Looking upon another for the purpose of lusting after her/him is wrong. This is a root of sexual promiscuity. It is also a root of stalking. God's desire is that we look upon one another as sacred lives, not as objects for mere personal pleasure.

Love and Hate (Matt. 5:43-45a). Love and hate are not mere emotional terms in the Bible. Love is active toward the individual. Hate is passive (cf. Mal. 1:2-3). While we were sinners God loved us. If life is to be godly, then we also must love (act for the good of) our enemies. If our enemies possess human life, then that life is God's, and thus highly valuable. Prayer for such people is in order. Their life is sacred also.

Elevating human life in this way marks us as God's children (human). Anything else marks us as mere beasts of the field.

Long is pastor, First Church, Perkinston.

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CLARKE
Rolling Creek

COPIAH
First, Crystal Springs
Harmony

COVINGTON/JEFF DAVIS
Seminary

FRANKLIN
Hopewell

GREENE
Sand Hill

GULF COAST
First, Bay St. Louis
First, Gulfport (3 days)
Hansboro
Perkinston

HOLMES
Horseshoe

HUMPHREYS
Gooden Lake

JASPER
Fellowship

Mr. & Mrs. Norman L. Burton
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Moak Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Norman L. Burton
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Moak Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Norman L. Burton
Dr. Levon Moore
Mrs. J. B. Lewis
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Moore
Dr. & Mrs. J. M. Brock Jr.
Mrs. Dody Murphree
First Baptist Church
Mr. William H. Myrick
Ms. Paula A. Lewis
Nickey and Kristi Nance
Mr. and Mrs. Perry Atherton
Mr. Jim Nash
Dr. & Mrs. J. M. Brock Jr.
Mrs. Marion S. Olson
Mr. & Mrs. W. W. Dannenberg
Ms. Gail Ott
Dr. & Mrs. J. M. Brock Jr.
Mrs. Bessie Parish
Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Parish
Alexis Gabrielle Peters
Dr. & Mrs. W. H. Peters
Bill and Cora Peters
Mr. and Mrs. Perry Atherton
Dr. & Mrs. Hugh Poole
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmie E. Poole
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Porter
Dr. & Mrs. J. M. Brock Jr.
Mr. Clint and Connie Presley
Mr. and Mrs. Perry Atherton
Mr. & Mrs. Franklin Rayborn
Mrs. Edyth R. Bryant
Mr. Larry Reeves
Mr. & Mrs. D. D. Reeves
Ms. Lucy Reeves
Mr. & Mrs. D. D. Reeves
Ms. Carol Richardson
Dr. & Mrs. J. M. Brock Jr.
Ridgecrest Baptist Church Staff
Mr. & Mrs. Marion B. Truitt
Mr. & Mrs. Lamar Rogers
Dr. & Mrs. J. M. Brock Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. David Skipper

LAUDERDALE
Causeyville
Collinsville
Fellowship
Midway
Russell
State Boulevard

LAWRENCE
Bethel
Old Silver Creek

LEAKE
Sunshine

LEE
Parkway

LINCOLN
Calvary
Central
First, Brookhaven
Mount Moriah
Pleasant Grove
Topisaw

LOWNDES
First, Columbus

MARION
Bunker Hill

MARSHALL
First, Holly Springs

METRO
Briarwood
First, Canton
First, Clinton
Morrison Heights
Parkway
Van Winkle

MISSISSIPPI
Liberty

MONROE
First, Amory

NESHOBA
Bethsaida
Grace

NEWTON
Beulah

NORTHWEST
First, Coldwater

Trinity

PEARL RIVER
First, Picayune

PERRY
First, Richton

PIKE
Central
First, McComb (2 days)

PONTOTOC
Center Hill
West Heights

PRENTISS
First, Booneville

RANKIN
Briar Hill
Park Place

SCOTT
Ephesus
Forest
Sebastopol

SIMPSON
Calvary
D'Lo
First, Mendenhall
Pleasant Valley

SMITH
Sylvarena

TISHOMINGO
Belmont
Calvary
Iuka
New Prospect

UNION
Ellistown
First, New Albany
Fredonia
Hillcrest
Ingomar
Jericho
Macedonia
Pleasant Ridge

WALTHALL
Mesa
Tylertown

WARREN

Bovina
First, Vicksburg
Highland
Immanuel

WASHINGTON
First, Greenville

WAYNE
Calvary

WINSTON
First, Louisville
Harmony

YALOBUSHA
First, Water Valley (2 days)

YAZOO
First, Yazoo City

INDIVIDUALS
2 days

BCV STAFF
1 day

**THE BAPTIST CHILDRENS'
VILLAGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**
1 day

- 101 days committed through churches
- 2 days committed through individuals
- 1 day committed through BCV staff
- 1 day committed through MBCV Board
- 23 anonymous commitments

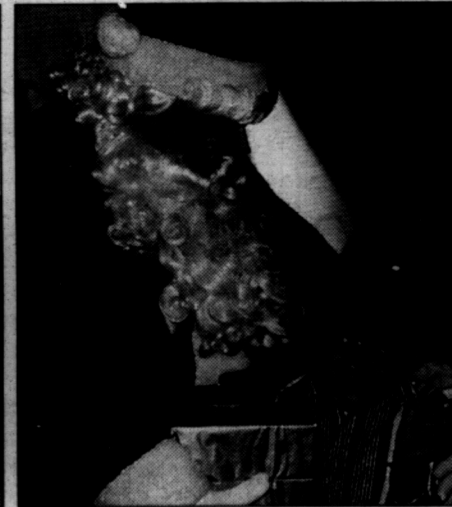
Total: 128 days committed

In honor of the centennial of the Mississippi Baptist Children's Village, the state's Baptist churches are asked to prayerfully consider supporting the Village for one day in 1997 — a cost of \$7,500. For more information or to request a pledge card, contact Chrystelle Thames, Village public relations director, at (601) 922-2242.

Lee M. Thompson
Mr. Billy Gaddis
Miss Jessie Threlfall
Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Parish
Holmes Tollinson
Holmes Tollinson S.S. Class
The Honorable Ben L. Todd
Neel-Schaffer, Inc.
The Honorable Herb Touchton
Neel-Schaffer, Inc.
Miss Mary Edith Waggoner
Mr. & Mrs. Rice Maddox

Mrs. Lodena Waggoner
Mr. & Mrs. Rice Maddox
Miss Patricia Walston
Dr. Jonathan Sweat
Mr. Earl Ray Webb
First Baptist Church
Ms. Carolyn Welborn
Main Street Baptist Church
Malcom & Faye Welch
Mr. & Mrs. Fred C. Powers
Mrs. Callie Westoby
Mr. Saxon W. Kirk

Mr. & Mrs. Lamar Whinery
Dr. H. D. Posey
Mr. Aven Whittington
Mrs. Shirley Clark
Mrs. Sue Legge Wilkie
First Baptist Church, Sardis
Mrs. Mildred Witt
Mrs. C. F. Hollingsworth
Dr. Joseph S. Young
Dr. & Mrs. Randy H. Russell
Ms. Margie Young
Wildlife Technical Services, Inc.

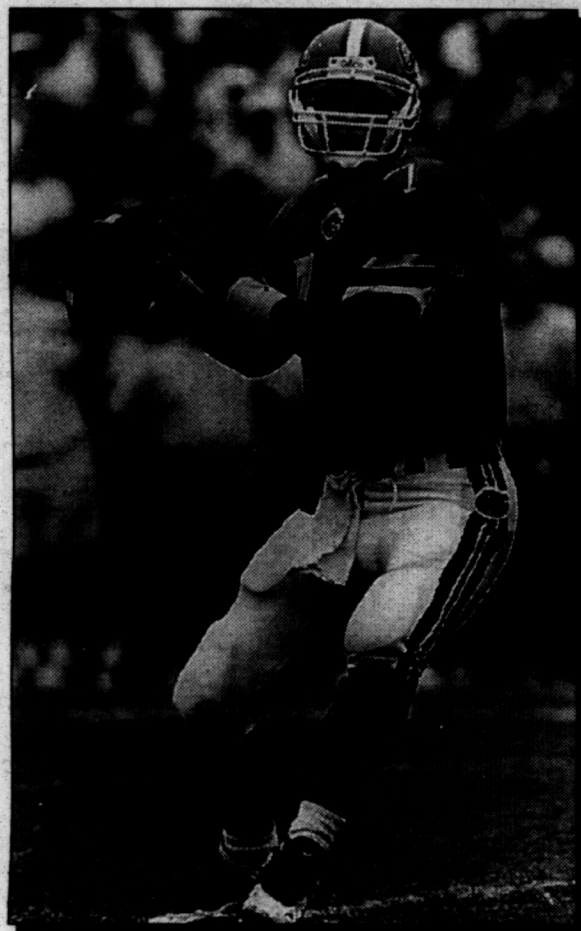


Jeffrey Dunaway enjoys talking to his mom free of charge courtesy of Merrill Lynch. Merrill Lynch of Jackson invited 24 BCV young people downtown to talk to any of their family and friends anywhere on them. After this special Christmas gift, Santa paid the children a visit and showed them with gifts from their wish lists. Elijah Dunaway receives his package from Santa along with a big hug.

Chaplain's son stresses Christian witness

From staff and wire reports

GAINESVILLE, Fla. (BP) — Heisman Trophy winner Danny Wuerffel is strongly grounded in his faith, his friends say.



The University of Florida quarterback led the Gators to the national championship in a 52-20 victory over Florida State Jan. 2 in the Sugar Bowl after receiving college football's top honor Dec. 14 in New York.

It was the second consecutive year Wuerffel was nominated for the Heisman, with the honor coming at the end of his college football career.

He still is undecided about entering the National Football League, and seminary remains an option, according to a Nov. 26 story in "The New York Times."

Wuerffel, son of a minister, has been attending First Baptist Church, High Springs, Fla., while in college, and at

times, Westside Baptist Church in Gainesville.

His father is a chaplain at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

In characteristic fashion after the Sugar Bowl victory, Wuerffel reflected, "Celebrating a team game and a victory in a team sport is so much better than sitting behind a podium accepting an award."

Accepting the Heisman

award, Wuerffel voiced thanks to his teammates for their hard work.

"They are a part of this award," the "Florida Times-Union" quoted him as saying.

"I hope they are proud of them, because I'm proud of them. The statistics are a reflection of everybody around you and what they're doing."

In recent weeks Wuerffel has been busy accepting dozens of awards and trying to finish papers and final exams at the university.

He graduated Dec. 21 with high honors for having maintained a 3.75 grade point average.

His list of awards includes the All-Southeastern Conference team; SEC Offensive Player of the Year; Draddy Scholarship Trophy, which is like an academic version of the Heisman; and the Davey O'Brien Award as the best quarterback.

One award, a 1995 Playboy All-America honor, was one Wuerffel politely declined, furthering his national witness.

"He's a very normal guy but everyone wants a piece of him," said Otto Spangler, Baptist campus minister at the University of Florida.

"I have four or five autographs that people want him to sign," Spangler said.

Wuerffel was born in Pensacola, Fla., and attended high school in Fort Walton Beach.

As the son of an armed services chaplain, having a good Christian witness always has been important to him.

After each touchdown on the field, Wuerffel often folds his hands in prayer, but he has sought advice on how that might be viewed by others, Spangler said.

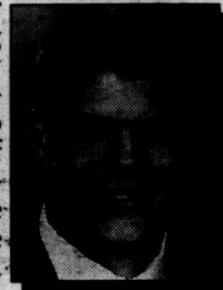
"He's spontaneously grateful to God; that is perfectly natural," Spangler explained.

Wuerffel didn't want anyone to misinterpret his actions, Spangler said, referring to Matthew 6:1: "Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven."

"He's a very genuine person and very concerned about what he does. When he was a freshman, Danny played the keyboard for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes meetings," Spangler said. "He is multi-talented."

"(Wuerffel) is the kind of young man every father would wish his daughter would bring home to marry," Spangler added.

Members of Westside Church thanked Wuerffel for his Christian witness during his years on the team and campus.



Wuerffel

"We wrote cards of encouragement and appreciation for his Christian witness on campus," pastor Gary L. Crawford said.

In the Sugar Bowl, Wuerffel and the Gators faced their top rival, the Florida State University Seminoles, who defeated the then-No. 1-ranked Gators on Nov. 30.

Amid all the pressure of the awards, Wuerffel doesn't focus on the competition.

"I think for most people that it's hard, but for some reason he's very centered," said Jennifer Buzbee, who met Wuerffel at a Fellowship of Christian Athletes meeting.

"I'm playing for an audience of One," Wuerffel was quoted as saying in "Sports Spectrum," a Christian magazine.

"As long as I can look up and feel I did my best, then I won't worry about what other people think," he said.

The quarterback noted, "The Lord is always there in every situation."

"Rather than seeing problems, I'm beginning to see opportunities in the different lessons God is teaching me. ... I can't do it on my own. I need to let Jesus control my life."

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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XCV RK RDQC RDCR
CBQ KI C IQCBIAO
DQCBR, WQ XRBKLZ,
IQCB LKR: WQDKOU,
VKAB ZKU PSOO HKGQ
PSRD EQLZQCLHQ,
QEQL ZKU PSRD
C BQHKGYQLHQ: DQ
PSOO HKGQ CLU XCEQ
VKA.

SXCSCD RDSBRV-ISEQ: IKAB

Clue: Y equals P

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Daniel Three Twenty-five

...that they are becoming available.

Because of intimidation by anti-abortion protesters, many abortion clinics have closed down or women have been more reluctant to seek services.

But Laura Echevarria, a spokeswoman for the National Right to Life Committee, said the abortion rate is probably dropping because of education by pro-life groups.

"We point them in the direction of a church or pregnancy crisis center, and tell them that there are other alternatives besides abortion," she told Associated Press.

"You have to make sure women can know where they can turn," she said.

About 1.2 million abortions were performed in 1993, down nearly 2% from 1992 and the fourth straight annual decline.

The nation's abortion rate — the ratio of abortions to the number of women of child-bearing age — also dropped for the third straight year. The ratio — 21 abortions for every 1,000 women ages 15 to 44 — is the lowest level since 1976.

The Atlanta-based CDC speculated that possible causes for the decline could be reduced access to abortion clinics, changes in attitude about abortion and the possibility that the number of unintended pregnancies had decreased.



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

I want our church to speak up against abortion, but our pastor never mentions it. How can I get him and the church more involved?

Taking an individual stand on an issue like abortion must come from a conviction of heart based on your beliefs. For a church to take the same stand, all the members must agree based on their convictions of heart, because abortion is one of the topics that can cause quick division in a church body and even among close friends. Just because a church doesn't speak up on issues such as this does not mean members are unconcerned. Talk first with your pastor. Ask him about his personal stand on this issue and why the church body isn't more vocal about it. He can probably provide you with insight on this matter. If you believe this is your area of ministry and that you can use it to tell people about Christ in a loving and compassionate way, volunteer to work in a crisis pregnancy center or a home for unwed mothers. Pray for your church. Like individuals, church bodies must seek God's

purpose for their existence, then stay focused and run the race God has marked for them.

I have a speech problem that has persisted into adulthood, and I am confused over how to pray about this problem. Should I ask for total deliverance?

When Jesus' disciples saw a man born blind, they asked, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus replied, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life" (John 9:1-3 NIV). It is not fair that you have had to deal with this handicap, but realize that God loves you and is at work in you as he was in the blind man. It's not wrong to ask for total deliverance, but have you also asked God to use you just as you are, if that is his will, to minister to others? God is our loving Father and desires to hear our pleas, but we must stop long enough to hear his reply and then put it into action in our lives. When you do, you will see the wondrous things God can do for you.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.